

### Remarks

Applicant affirms the restriction requirement provisional election made during a telephone conversation with the Examiner 2/23/2006. Group II claims 19 and 20 have been withdrawn.

Further to the Examiner's request, the title of the specification has been changed to "Connector Axial Compression Tool".

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 9, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by *Holiday*. *Holiday* is a conventional compression tool as described in the specification background paragraphs 0004-0006. *Holiday* applies a "chuckhead" 50, 42 that axially engages the connector interface end, only, to apply axial compression.

Two elements of a compression tool according to the invention, as claimed (claim 1) are:

- 1) a cradle slidably mounted within the cavity
- 2) (the cradle) supporting a shoulder clamp;

The Examiner identifies element 50 of *Holiday* as a cradle slidably mounted within the cavity. Applicant respectfully submits that a chuckhead whose only function is to engage the connector interface end of a connector cannot be interpreted as a "cradle" according to the invention.

Further, the Examiner has failed to identify a shoulder clamp supported by the cradle. No such element is appears in *Holiday*. In fact, because *Holiday* applies axial compression force only upon the interface end of the connector, *Holiday* includes no shoulder clamp whatsoever.

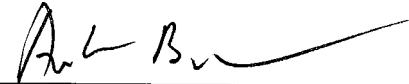
Because the cited reference fails to disclose either a cradle or a cradle supporting a shoulder clamp, each and every element of the present non-obvious invention fails to appear in the cited reference. Therefore, rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 9, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is improper.

The Examiner indicated that claims 5, 6, 8, 10-14, 17 and 18 would be allowable if placed into independent form. As described in detail, herein above, independent claim 1 from which these claims depend is believed to be allowable in its present form. Therefore, dependent claims 5, 6, 8, 10-14, 17 and 18 should also be allowable without further amendment.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claim 21.

Having obviated each of the Examiners rejections, applicant respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued. Should the Examiner be inclined to issue an Official Action other than the notice of allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner first contact Applicant by telephone at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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